IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) Table olives characterized in that they contain probiotic *Lactobacilli paracasei* adhering on the pericarp in an amount of $1x10^6$ or higher bacterial cells per gram of olive.

2. (Withdrawn) Olives according to claim 1 characterized in that the lactobacilli are selected from *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* and L. *paracasei* and the bifidobacteria are selected from *Bifidobacterium bifidum* and B. *longum*.

3. (Withdrawn) Table olives according to claim 2 characterized in that the lactobacilli are selected from: *Lactobacillus rhamnous* GG ATCC53103; L. *rhamnosus* IMPC 11; L. *rhamnosus* IMPC 19; *Lactobacillus paracasei* LMG P-22043; *Lactobacillus paracasei* IMPC 4.1 and that the bifidobacteria are selected from *Bifidobacterium bifidum* ATCC15696 and *Bifidobacterium longum* ATCC15708.

4. (Withdrawn) Table olives according to claim 3 characterized in that the lactobacilli belong to the strain *Lactobacillus paracasei* deposited with the Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms under accession number LMG P-22043.

5. (Currently amended) Probiotic food products comprising the table olives of ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1.

6. (Withdrawn) Use of lactobacilli and bifidobacteria to coat the pericarp of table olives.

7. (Withdrawn) *Lactobacillus paracasei* deposited with the Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms under accession number LMG P-22043.

8. (Amended) Table olives according to claim 1 characterized in that they contain probiotic *Lactobacillus paracasei* adhering on the pericarp in amounts sufficient of table olives to increase at least one logarithmic cycle the intestinal population of the probiotic ~~bacteria population~~ *Lactobacillus paracasei* upon ingestion and colonization of the gastrointestinal tract.